



Cultural Difference and Social Solidarity

A CULTURAL DIFFERENCE AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY NETWORK CONFERENCE

AGEING, GENERATIONAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY: MANAGING DIVERSITY IN AGEING SOCIETIES

In partnership with & hosted by the
'Between Transnational Mobility and
Locality' Research Group, SWPS
University of Social Sciences and
Humanities, II Faculty of Psychology,
Wroclaw, Poland

<http://wssemigrants.wix.com/professionals>



9th – 10th July 2018

**SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, II Faculty of
Psychology, Wroclaw, Poland**

The world population profile is ageing, with improved social and welfare provision and health care (both state and NGO) and technological, political and cultural changes across authoritarian and democratic societies. The combination of greater longevity and lower fertility is prompting projections that the percentage of older people (over 65) will almost double by 2050. Even before 2020, the number of people over 65 is projected as exceeding the number of children below 5. This means new challenges for the health care system, the social care system, cultural conceptions of work, education, civic life and public participation, and public finance, pensions and retirement policies. In addition, the comparative pace of ageing is unequal, with ageing populations in Europe, and North America, with youngest populations in Africa and the Middle East. This has implications for global patterns of economic development, wealth and productivity and immigration and diasporic change, where social change becomes not just economic and cultural, but also generational. More, ageing population profiles are more differentiated

within societies, and changing social composition and cultural diversity makes an ageing population less easily managed by 'catch all' solutions. This signals new challenges in both respecting social, cultural and generational diversity, whilst maintaining social solidarity and cohesion.

In addition to generational population change, the character of aging is changing. No longer are older generations easily characterised as physically and mentally frail, dependent and less capable, progressively passive, unsexual. receivers rather than producers of goods services or creativity, focused on private and family issues and disinterested in public affairs and taking from society rather than contributing. Grey politics, the aesthetic and cultural creativity of older people, older entrepreneurialism and participation and an interest in civic and personal pleasures are making older people less easily confined to private space. The breakdown of these stereotypes has an impact on how older people are seen and catering for by public and private services, how families and communities are composed, and how political will and demands are represented. In this context, in both values, representations and practices, diversity presents challenges for traditional solidarities to change and develop.

This Cultural Difference and Social Solidarity Network (CDSS) conference seeks to provide a space for those scholars - established or early career, academic or policy/practice-focused - interested in aging and generational questions of solidarity and difference. Papers, posters and panels are sought from both within and across the humanities, social sciences, and other disciplinary boundaries or transdisciplinary approaches, with a view to extending critical and creative analyses of generational changes as they pertain to the balances of cultural difference and social solidarity within and across borders. The list of topics include, not exhaustively:

- Intergenerational solidarity and social, political and cultural strategies - public, private and NGO - to develop solidarity across generations
- Generational issues in balancing respecting differences and maintaining social cohesion in contemporary societies
- Policy and practice differences in meeting the needs of older and younger age groups in the society, with attendant problems in policy areas such as health care, social welfare and pensions, labour and retirement regulation, equality legislation and policies against inequality, and civic and public provision
- The possible choices in new initiatives, policies and demographic strategies in the management of generational diversity
- Issues of social solidarity and multi-culturalism in pluralist societies - the challenges of age and fertility differences between migrants, diasporic communities and established population,

- Global questions of age and generational change and economic and development change
- Ethnic and cultural and institutional and kinship differences in understanding in managing ageing and elderly care
- Ageing societies, Europe and crisis in the EU – the generational implications of migration and refugee crises (and Brexit/separatism) .
- Ageing, generational change, critical pedagogy and the reconception of life-long learning in the life course,

Contributors are invited to suggest papers or more non-traditional presentations and posters that contribute to our understanding of the making, breaking and remaking of cultural difference and social solidarity in contemporary societies where generational difference is a key factor. Whether polished or provisional, you should aim to occupy a slot of 20 minutes maximum, though shorter contributions are welcomed. They might settle upon one of the themes identified as challenges above, or provide case studies of particular struggles, or suggest a different challenge altogether.

The conference will be organised around paper/non-traditional presentations, but with a heavy emphasis on the value of discussion as well as exposition. CDSS believe that open discussion serves to enrich presenters' papers, themes and emerging ideas. It is anticipated that publishing opportunities, for selected papers, will emerge from the workshop. Selection would be on the basis of quality and cohesion of papers and not the status of paper-givers.

The plenary speakers will be: Sandra Torres and Paul Reynolds.

Sandra Torres is a leading social gerontologists in Europe. She holds both a Professorship in Sociology and the Chair in Social Gerontology at Uppsala University as well as a Guest Professorship in Aging at Linköping University. She was awarded the European Research Area on Aging Network's (ERA-AGE) FLARE-fellowships. She is also one of the scientific experts who investigate quality within elderly care in order to formulate the new policy on aging that Sweden will adopt. You can find more about Sandra Torres at <http://katalog.uu.se/profile/?id=n96-751>

Paul Reynolds is co-founder and co-director of CDSS and co-convenor of the International Network for Sexual Ethics and Politics. His research and writing focuses on sexual ethics and politics, the relationship between sexual consent, sexual literacy and sexual well-being in its diverse forms, and the problems of sexual law, legitimacy and citizenship. He is a Reader in Sociology and Social Philosophy at Edge Hill University and Visiting Professor at the University of Gent. You can find more about Paul Reynolds at <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/socialsciences/about/staff/paul-reynolds/>

CDSS is an international network focused broadly on fostering collaboration and debate around the broad issues of difference and solidarity in human societies. The network organizes periodic conferences, and seminars and collaborative projects – see www.differenceandsolidarity.org. It has a particular interest in supporting international research collaboration, and encouraging younger researchers entering the international stage. The network works towards the development of trans-disciplinary and trans-national understandings of, and, interventions in, questions of solidarity and difference. After a successful first collaboration in September 2015, we are pleased to work in partnership again with the 'Between Transnational Mobility and Locality' Research Group, SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, II Faculty of Psychology, Wrocław, Poland, who will host the conference.

Prospective participants should submit an abstract of no more than 200 words via the online form at www.differenceandsolidarity.org. We operate a rolling programme of considering and accepting paper proposals, as they are submitted, so as to facilitate those who need to apply for funding.

The closing date for abstracts is **Friday May 4th 2018. Final acceptance and rejection e-mails will be sent out on Wednesday May 9th.**

The conference fees (below) include conference pack, administration, refreshments, 2 lunches and an evening meal reception on the evening of the 9th July:

Waged/Full time Faculty – 100 Euros

Postgraduates/Part-time Faculty – 80 Euros

We will provide a brief guide to accessible and reasonably priced accommodation that delegates can book for the event.

Queries should be send to:

Dr Agnieszka Bielewska - abielewska@swps.edu.pl

Conference organisers:

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